

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USOEC D

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OECD

SUBJECT: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLE
SCHEME

REFERENCE: (A) OECD PARIS 19458, 2 JULY 1976, (B) BRUSSELS
6635 6 JULY 1976

1. TWO YEAR TEMPORARY DEROGATION PERMITTING THE UNITED
STATES AND CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE
SCHEME EXPIRES JULY 28, 1978. IT WAS RENEWED IN 1976
FOLLOWING OBJECTIONS BY THE BELGIANS (REF A) TO A PROPOSAL
FOR A PERMANENT DEROGATION. THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE RAISED
THE QUESTION WITH BELGIAN OFFICIALS AND REPORTED IN REF (B).
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2. WE ARE INFORMED THAT THE BELGIAN DELEGATE TO THE OECD
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WORKING PARTY IN PARIS MARCH 8-9 RAISED
THE QUESTION AS TO WHY THE UNITED STATES IS UNABLE TO ADAPT
ITS STANDARDS TO THE OECD SCHEME. WE WERE NOT REPRESENTED
AT THAT MEETING BUT ARE INFORMED THAT NO OTHER COUNTRY EX-
PRESSED ANY VIEW.

3. U.S. COMPLIANCE WITH FULL REQUIREMENTS OF OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME CONTINUES NOT TO BE FEASIBLE. U.S. HAS PARTICIPATED WITH INTEREST IN SCHEME ACTIVITIES INCLU-

ING REVISING STANDARD TO EASE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT BY PARTICIPANTS AND PREPARING EXPLANATORY BROCHURE. U.S. HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO TECHNICAL WORK FOR IMPLEMENTING PACKING, CERTIFICATION, HANDLING, PREVENTION OF DETERIORATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT STANDARDS.

4. SINCE U.S. PARTICIPATION HELPS DRAW OECD MEMBERS TO GRADUALLY ADOPT MORE SIMILAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA AND MORE SIMILAR INTERPRETATION AND CONTROL PRACTICES, WE CONTINUE TO SEE ADVANTAGES IN U.S. PARTICIPATION IN SCHEME. WE HAVE LONG HELD A VICE CHAIRMANSHIP IN SCHEME.

5. CONTINUED U.S. PARTICIPATION REQUIRES ANOTHER DEROGATION AND WE BELIEVE IT REASONABLE TO ASK FOR 5 YEARS. MATTER WILL BE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17-19. REQUEST EMBASSY EXTENSION SOUND OUT BELGIAN REACTION TO EXTENSION OF U.S. DEROGATION. MR. J. VANDERLINDEN, DIRECTOR DE SERVICE PRODUITS DES CULTURES, FAVORS U.S. PARTICIPATION, AND IT MAY BE BEST TO INITIATE CONTACT WITH HIM.

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